

REMARKS

Pursuant to the present amendment, claims 1, 16 and 30 have been amended and claims 9, 24 and 25 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-7, 10-16, 19, 21-22 and 29-39 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 12-16, 19, 24 and 30 were rejected. Claims 29 and 31-39 stand allowed. Claims 3-7, 9-11, 21 and 22 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Pursuant to the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations from now-canceled dependent claim 9 which was indicated to be allowable. Thus, it is believed that claims 1-7 and 10-15 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations from now-canceled dependent claim 25 which was indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16, 19, 21 and 22 are in condition for immediate allowance.

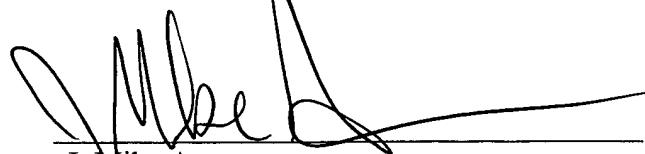
Independent claim 30 has been amended to present allowable dependent claim 7 in independent form. Thus, it is believed that amended claim 30 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. It should be understood that, in making the present amendments, Applicants do not acquiesce to the correctness of the Examiner's rejections. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims in a later filed application should they so desire. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned

attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 12, 2005

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